

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, and 13-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, and 15 are amended and claims 2, 17, and 18 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter found therein. No new matter has been added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance by incorporating allowable features into each independent claim; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as each claim has a feature, which has been indicated as allowable; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments presented in the Final Rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown Applicants' representative by Examiner Diaz at the interview held March 16, 2006. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 18 is allowable. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 13 are amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 18. Thus, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11 and 13-16 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,466,935 to Stuart. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

During the interview, Examiner Diaz agreed that the Amendment After Final Rejection would be entered if independent claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 13 were amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 18. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 6, 7, 9,

10, and 13 are amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 18. As agreed at the interview, the pending claims are patentable over Stuart. The cancellation of claim 17 renders the rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, and 13-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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